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INFO RUEHME/AMEMBASSY MEXICO PRIORITY 0724  
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E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [CASC](#) [MX](#) [CYNTHIA](#) [VANESSA](#) [FIGUEROA](#) [LOPEZ](#)

SUBJECT: W/W REPATRIATION OF MINOR CYNTHIA VANESSA FIGUEROA LOPEZ

¶1. On Tuesday, February 6, 2007 Desarrollo Integral de la Familia (DIF) in Nogales, Mexico, the Mexican equivalent for Child Protective Services, informed Post they had taken custody of minor Cynthia Vanessa Figueroa Lopez. Ms. Figueroa had been deported by DHS on the previous day because she had told police officers in Tucson, AZ that she was a Mexican citizen and had no identification. Ms. Figueroa was questioned by Tucson police after being detained for shoplifting in a Tucson mall. Once in Mexico, Ms. Figueroa told DIF officials and, subsequently conoff, her true nationality. Ms. Figueroa told conoff she lied about her identity in order to avoid juvenile court in the United States.

¶2. Post visited Ms. Figueroa and obtained a blanket Privacy Act Waiver. Ms. Figueroa understood her legal situation and was in good health and spirits. Post then contacted Ms. Figueroa's family and learned that she ran away from the group home where she was staying. Ms. Figueroa's grandmother, Ana Barraga, tel. (520) 312-8041, has custody of her. Post contacted Mrs. Barraga and advised her of her granddaughter's situation.

¶3. On Thursday, February 8, Post confirmed with DIF that Mrs. Barraga came to Mexico for Ms. Figueroa. Both have safely returned to their home in Tucson. Post considers this case closed.

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